



Kawanihan sa Impormasyon

PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBYAN NG MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

Estrada must be ousted from power and not allowed to escape like Marcos

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The scandalous information revealed by Gov. Luis 'Chavit' Singson are all confirmations of the breadth, depth and gravity of the corruption and criminal operations of the ruling Estrada clique.

Thus, the need to oust from power Estrada and his criminal minions, especially leading officials of the PNP and AFP, becomes ever clearer.

Singson's revelations have further broadened and intensified the Filipino people's anger. The people must further be organized and massed in their millions in street demonstrations, especially around Malacañang, to overthrow Estrada the way Marcos was ousted in 1986.

Plans must also be made to ensure that Estrada does not escape. Estrada must be arrested and made to stand trial before an independent court, not only for criminally masterminding illegal gambling, corruption and stealing from government coffers, but also for widespread violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and the rules of war especially in Mindanao, Southern Tagalog and other areas being ravaged by counterrevolutionary war.

Most of all, Estrada must pay for the unprecedented devastation of the national economy and the impoverishment of the people brought about by his all-out implementation of the policies of liberalization, deregulation and privatization.

On the eve of Estrada's ouster, a national council composed of representatives of various patriotic and democratic groups and anti-Estrada personalities may be convened. The council may oversee governmental functions until the manner of setting up the new government is decided.

Overthrowing Estrada will definitely benefit the Filipino people and open opportunities for their democratic demands to be addressed, including

- (1) the immediate rollback of prices of petroleum products;
- (2) a just increase in workers' wages;
- (3) the lowering of prices of prime commodities;
- (4) a halt to the continued sellout of public property, especially hospitals and schools;
- (5) stopping the all-out anti-Moro war in Southern and Western Mindanao;
- (6) junking of Oplan Makabayan;
- (7) release of all political prisoners in the country.

The Party and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines are ready to hold peace talks once more with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines that shall succeed the Estrada government. The peace talks must resume within the framework of implementing the agreements that have already been forged, ranging from The Hague Joint Declaration of 1990 to the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (1998).

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